THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal is still under examination in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Efficiency and revenue of major ports in Tamil Nadu

1584. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific effort has been taken to increase the efficiency and revenue of the major ports of the country in general and Tamil Nadu, in particular; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Tamil Nadu ports, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) To increase efficiency and capacity of major ports and consequential their revenue, the following major steps have been taken from time to time in relation to all major ports of the country including the major ports situated in the State of Tamil Nadu:—

(i) Construction and equipping of new berths/terminals;

(ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-art equipment on existing berths;

(iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency/output;

(iv) Private sector involvement in the development and operation of part facilities to bring out additional investment and modern techniques for greater efficiency;

(v) Computerisation of port working and partial induction of Electronic Data Interchange; and

(vi) Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System inputs have improved safety of the ships.

(b) Main efforts made recently to increase efficiency and revenue of the major ports situated in the State of Tamil Nadu are given below port-wise:—

Name of the Port	Efforts
Chennai	1. Leasing out of existing container terminal to a Private Company.
	2. Modernisation/deepening of berths located in the Inner Harbour and increasing the draft to 11 meters.
Tuticorin	1. Leasing out of Berth No. 7 for operating container terminal by a Private Company.
	2. Capital dredging of the shipping channel to increase the depth by about 2 meters to service the larger ships.
	3. The Port has also started night navigation of deep draught vessels.
Ennore	Port has been commissioned in June, 2001. Two berths constructed for receiving coal have been made fully operational through mechanized system of unloading to facilitate quicker discharge of thermal coal imported by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.